

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3605

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6144

FOR MULCAHY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, LI, US, (TOLBERT, WM. R. JR.)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S PRIVATE VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 234806

1. I REVIEWED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH FONMIN DENNIS. DENNIS SAID HE COULD CONFIRM FOR PRESIDENT TOLBERT ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER 5 APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

2. SCHEDULE CONTAINED REFTEL IS SAME AS SCHEDULE DENNIS HAD EXCEPT DENNIS UNDERSTANDS AMBASSADOR PEAL IS TRYING TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER TV APPEARANCE FOR TOLBERT ON OCTOBER 31, TIME NOT SPECIFIED. DENNIS READILY UNDERSTOOD NECESSITY CO-ORDINATION WITH DEPT PORTION OF TOLBERT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON INCLUDING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOLBERT'S PROGRAM. DENNIS SAID HE WOULD TELEGRAPH AMB PEAL AND UNDERLINE THIS POINT. HE SAID GOL HAD LEFT NOVEMBER 5 COMPLETELY OPEN UNTIL QUESTION OF FORD/TOLBERT MEETING HAS BEEN DECIDED. AS OF NOW, GOL HAS NO PLANS TO SEEK OTHER APPOINTMENTS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON; HOWEVER, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT WOULD BE MOST WILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH APPOINTMENTS AS DEPT MIGHT SCHEDULE. HE MENTIONED PREFERENCE FOR MORNING CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD AS INDICATED PARA 4 REFTEL.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO SUBJECTS TOLBERT WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, DENNIS SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS IN ANY DETAIL WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT. HOWEVER, SPEAKING OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD, HE OPINED THAT MEETING WOULD BE MORE IN THE NATURE OF A "GET-ACQUAINTED MEETING." HE FELT TOLBERT WOULD WISH TO RAISE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS INTER ALIA DURING MEETING:

A) CURRENT AFRICAN ISSUES, SUCH AS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE FOR FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA IN GENERAL AND CURRENT UN SITUATION RE SA EXPULSION, RHODESIA QUESTION (HE FELT SURE TOLBERT WOULD MAKE PERSONAL APPEAL FOR REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT).

B) WORLDWIDE INFLATION AND ITS EFFECT ON LIBERIAN ECONOMY AND THE LESSER DEVELOPED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

C) THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ITS EFFECTS ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE BELIEVED TOLBERT WOULD INQUIRE AS TO CURRENT US POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ASSIST UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE.

D) TOLBERT'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR LIBERIA -- AN EXPOSITION OF THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SELF-HELP, SELF-RELIANCE, ETC.

4. ASSISTANCE ISSUES. AT NO TIME DID DENNIS ALLUDE TO THE QUESTION OF US AID TO LIBERIA, NOT EVEN IN HIS REFERENCES TO THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE US AID DIRECTOR HAS HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MIN OF PLANNING NEAL IN WHICH LATTER INDICATED US AID MAY BE RAISED IN WASHINGTON BY TOLBERT OR MEMBERS OF HIS ENTOURAGE. NEAL INFORMED USAID DIRECTOR THAT HE WAS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT TO THE US AND TO WASHINGTON IF THAT PORTION OF TRIP DEVELOPED. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT TO DO ASSISTANCE BRIEFING PAPER AS CONTINGENCY.

A) HOUSING GUARANTY. HAVING ALREADY CONFERRED RECENTLY AT SOME LENGTH WITH AID AND UNDP, NEAL MERELY REITERATED GOL'S DESIRE TO GET ON WITH THE HOUSING PROGRAM. IF ISSUE IS RAISED  
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AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL WE SUGGEST PRESIDENT FORD MAY WANT ONLY TO INDICATE APPRECIATION EFFORTS PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO IMPROVE HOUSING FOR LOWER INCOME GROUPS AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AID HAS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION.

B) RURAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT. NEAL SPECIFICALLY DWELT ON GOL DESIRE FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BANK TO MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE TO SMALL FARMERS. NOTED THAT ON HIS RECENT

VISIT UNDP NEW YORK HE HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF 500,000 DLR'S LOAN FROM UN CAPITAL FUND AND QUERIED WHETHER AID MIGHT CONSIDER SUPPLEMENTING THIS. NEAL SAID IN TERMS OF TOTAL SIZE OF FUND HE WAS THINKING "ANYWHERE FROM 2 TO 5 MILLION DOLRS." HE SAID GOL MIGHT MATCH THE UNDP CONTRIBUTION AND HE WAS HOPING FOR SIZEABLE AID CONTRIBUTION PLUS OTHER DONORS. FYI: GOL'S ABILITY TO MAN SUCH A BANK WITHOUT RELIANCE ON EXPATRIATES OF CONCERN TO US, AND DIRECTOR SO INFORMED NEAL. REPLY WAS THAT THERE ARE ABLE MEN IN PRIVATE SECTOR WHO WOULD BE INDUCED TO SERVE. NEAL IS IGNORING REALITIES. END FYI.

C) PL-480. GOL IS CONCERNED AT PHASING OUT CARE TITLE II SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM IN FY 75. NEAL WONDERED WHETHER TITLE I PROGRAM FOR IMPORT OF RICE COULD BE INITIATED WITH PROCEEDS BEING USED FOR AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAM. WE INDICATED FOOD SHORTAGES STILL PREVALENT. SUBJECT MAY WELL BE ON NEAL'S AGENDA.

D) DONORS' CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 17. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FORMER UNDP RESREP CURT CAMPAIGNE IN NEW YORK, NEAL HAS SCHEDULED CONFERENCE IN MONROVIA ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. HE EMPHASIZED HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK GENERALITIES AT CONFERENCE BUT SPECIFICS: HOW MUCH MONEY AND FOR WHAT. HOPES TO HAVE WORLD BANK BONG AND NIMBA COUNTY STUDIES COMPLETED BEFORE FEBRUARY 17. SAID HE HAS COMMITMENTS BY UNDP, FAO AND IBRD TO ATTEND SUCH CONFERENCE. DIRECTOR INDICATED THIS WAS GOOD IDEA BUT THAT SOME PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS AMONG DONORS RESIDING IN MONROVIA WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHICH, IF ANY, OF ABOVE SUBJECTS PRESIDENT MAY RAISE, NEAL HIMSELF MAY WELL SEEK APPOINTMENTS IN STATE/AID TO DISCUSS MANY OF THEM. QUESTION WAS RAISED ABOUT POSSIBILITY USAID DIRECTOR'S PRESENCE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON AT TIME PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. IF AMB PEAL SEEKS APPOINTMENT FOR PRESIDENT WITH AID ADMINISTRATOR, THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO DIRECTOR'S PRESENCE BUT IF TOLBERT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL BE LIMITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE ONLY NEAL WILL SEEK AID APPOINTMENTS, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED SINCE NEAL KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND WASHINGTON. REQUEST STATE/AID VIEWS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, DENNIS ASKED TO BE INFORMED, IF POSSIBLE, OF SUBJECTS WHICH PRESIDENT FORD MIGHT WISH TO RAISE WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT SO THAT LATTER COULD BE FULLY BRIEFED. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY THIS POINT.

7. IN CONTEXT OF "GET-ACQUAINTED SESSION" FORESEEN BY TOLBERT, PRESIDENT FORD MAY WISH TO:

A) NOTE THAT SEVERAL COUNTY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CALLED ON TOLBERT TO BE TRUE WHIG (AND ONLY) PARTY'S STANDARD BEARER IN 1975 ELECTIONS. (TOLBERT HAS NOT YET OPENED CAMPAIGN BY DECLARING HIS CANDIDACY), AND ASK WHEN CAMPAIGN WILL OPEN.

B) ASK ABOUT LIBERIA'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IN MANO RIVER UNION.

C) ASK FOR TOLBERT'S APPRECIATION OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS IN COMING PERIOD, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING OAU AND HIS ASPIRATIONS IN RELATION TO IT.

8. BELIEVE PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BE AWARE OF WHAT TOLBERT MEANS WHEN HE USES TERM "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN U.S. AND LIBERIA. HE SEES FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES OF OTHER METROPOLES AS BENEFICIARIES OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND OF ONGOING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD INSURE THAT LIBERIA IS IN SAME RELATIVE POSITION TO U.S.

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